



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

# DECORATIVE ART IN LONDON.

BY HENRY B. WHEATLEY.

THE cold winds remained with us until the middle of June, and the delicate were forced to remain indoors. At last summer has come and all are glad to seek the cool shade of the parks. This is the time to enjoy the Health Exhibition, and greater numbers flock to South Kensington than did last year to the fisheries. Some visitors look into the Conference Room to hear what subject is being disputed upon, and others look carefully at the exhibits, but soon all find it more agreeable to turn into the gardens and listen to the music of the military bands.

A curious instance of the steadiness of the flow of visitors occurred lately, when it was found that there was only a difference of one in the numbers visiting the exhibition in the two weeks ending respectively, June 14 and June 21. Verily the "Health-ones," as the place has come to be called, will be even more successful than the fisheries. There is a wonderful variety in the objects exhibited, and furniture and decoration generally have not been forgotten in the arrangement of the great show.

Another exhibition well worthy of a visit is the one now being held at the Crystal Palace. Here are shown a very fine collection of ceramics and glass, and one of the objects is the largest china vase ever made. An art exhibition is being held at Wolverhampton, in which furniture takes a prominent position. In fact most of the large cities and towns of England which possess their free libraries have also founded art galleries, and in these, besides the permanent contents, are frequently shown the artistic treasures of the district, or of the still wider world of art which knows no nationality. An exhibition of old silver work is being arranged under the superintendence of Mr. Cripps, and many of the chief collectors of these valuable works from the Queen downwards have promised to lend from their stores.

The sight of the beautiful objects which are now so widely shown to the public must have the effect of cultivating a good taste, but we are apt to expect too much from them. The amount of ugliness which man has brought into the world is so much greater than the beauty he has created that even the man of taste has to fight against the degeneration of his esthetic feeling by what he sees around him, how much more difficult then must it be for the uncultured to understand the beautiful. At all events teaching must be begun early and therefore the object of the art for Schools Association is commendable.

This society has completed the first year of its existence, and from the report it appears to have been highly successful in its work, although its income is small. Some 150 works of art, prints, etchings, photographs, etc., have been collected to form a representative gallery, and Committees of Schools are invited to purchase copies of these at a reduced price. But this is not thought to be enough, and it is proposed to form loan collections for the benefit of schools which cannot afford to purchase.

The question has been asked, What have schools of art done for our manufactures? and the

answer has not been altogether satisfactory, because we are too apt to expect from schools just what they can never produce by their teaching, and that is originality or genius. They have, however, done much to raise the general level of our art manufactures, and caused these to rival, if not surpass, those of other artistic countries.

The Central Building of the city and Guilds of London Technological Institute was opened with much éclat by the Prince of Wales on the 25th of June, and great things are expected from this admirably arranged institution now that it is in working order.

The sale of the Fountaine collection of ceramics at Messrs. Christie's famous auction rooms has been the artistic event of the season. The prices realized have been enormous and the papers have been full of remarks on the madness of collectors. When objects are unique and above suspicion in respect to their genuineness, they are

glass for thirty-six persons, cut in imitation of the ornament on a Spanish drinking tumbler of the period of the Emperor Charles V., has been produced at the works at Stourbridge for King François d'Assise de Bourbon, husband of the late Queen of Spain (Isabella), and it is a magnificent specimen of the art of the English glass-maker.

Messrs. Webb & Sons of Stourbridge, have just executed some fine specimens of cameo glass, which requires great skill in the artist, and a considerable amount of time to be expended in its production. A vessel is made of three layers of glass of different colors, and then portions are cut out of the various layers to form the design, by means of fluoric acid, the engraver's wheel, and the steel point.

Stained glass windows are usually required for churches and an ecclesiastical character pervades much of the manufacture, but Messrs. Charles Bussell, Gibbs & Co. have just completed some fine stained glass windows for a huge dome at the Bombay terminus of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway. The colors are rich and the monogram and arms of the company occupy a prominent position in the design.

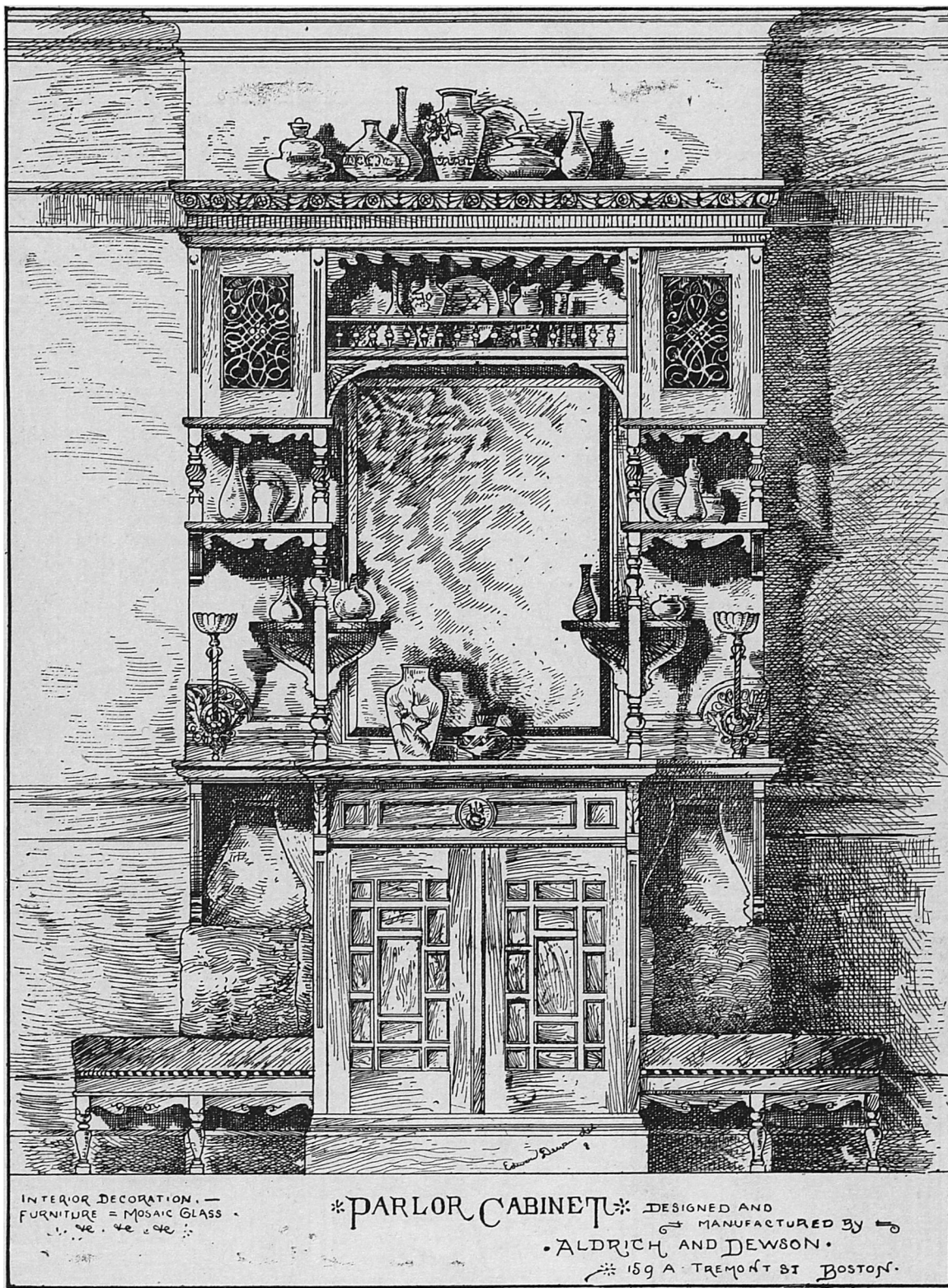
Messrs. Doulton are now exhibiting some new work of Mr. Tinworth at the show-rooms at Lambeth, which is of considerable interest. Several of the terra cottas are, as is usual with the artist, illustrations of scriptural subjects, but in the chief design he has made a new departure, and he thereby shows that the range of his art is not so limited as some critics have supposed. The subject is a classical one, and one treated by Mr. Gosse in his poem, "The Sons of Cydippe." The dutiful sons of the priestess Cydippe, draw their mother's chariot to the temple and the grateful mother entreats Hera (Juno) to reward her sons with the best of gifts. The young men at once sink down to rise no more, thus showing that the greatest boon the gods can give is death. This poetical tale is beautifully illustrated by the accomplished artist.

A society of architects has been inaugurated, and promises to be successful. There have long been complaints from some of the younger members of the Institute of British Architects respecting the supposed exclusive action of the council, and these discontented spirits hope at no distant period to found

a society on a more equitable and democratic basis.

The sale of materials of the unfortunate and unfinished National Opera House on the Thames Embankment (in the erection of which some fifty thousand pounds were sunk) realized only £2,180. For this sum were sold five million bricks, twenty thousand feet run of flooring joists, and one thousand and four hundred scaffold boards and poles.

I will end this letter with a reference to the street architecture of India, which is decorative in the best sense of the word. Mr. Purdon Clarke read a paper on this subject at the last meeting of the Society of Arts for the present session, and he illustrated his paper with a large number of photographs of house fronts, which were thrown upon the screen by means of the oxyhydrogen light. The variety of design and elegance of detail as thus shown are most delightful, and form a violent contrast to our own dull and tasteless streets.



INTERIOR DECORATION. — FURNITURE — MOSAIC GLASS.

\*PARLOR CABINET\* DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED BY ALDRICH AND DEWSON. 159 A TREMONT ST BOSTON.

sure, in these days of wealthy connoisseurs, to fetch high prices, although it does strike those unbitten with the mania, that 920 guineas for a small Faenza dish, or 3,500 guineas for a flambeau in Henri Deux ware, are extravagant sums to give for such objects, but this question of value is constantly arising and is never settled.

Special attention has been called to this sale by the fact that the collection was originally formed by Sir Andrew Fountaine more than a century and a half ago. Sir Andrew, who was a man of mark in his day, was known all over Europe as a collector, and collecting as he did that which had not then become the fashion he had everything of value offered to him by the dealers. These dealers frequently attempted to overreach him, but it is said that they invariably failed in such attempts.

The manufacture of artistic glass appears to be in a flourishing condition, and much beautiful work is being constantly produced. A set of table